



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
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COMMISSIONER

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May 17, 2005

To: City, Town and County Officials

Subject: Local Partnership Initiatives – Industrial Access Program

You recently received information regarding the Revenue Sharing Program and the Local Partnership Fund, two of the initiatives approved as amendments to the 2004-2006 biennial budget that promote the VDOT-locality partnership in addressing transportation issues. We would like your assistance on another one of these initiatives.

The Industrial Access Program, which provides new/improved access to promote industrial development, has provided economic development opportunities for local governments and industries throughout the Commonwealth. To further encourage new business development in Virginia and to ensure that the Department's policies represent the current business environment, the General Assembly has requested VDOT to work with representatives of local governments and local, regional, and state economic development agencies to determine if revisions are needed to the definition of businesses and industry that qualify for access road funding.

We also plan to identify aspects of the industrial access program that can be modified to make the project development phase more user-friendly for both applicants and VDOT. To help us focus on these issues, we are attaching an informal survey (also available at VirginiaDOT.org). Your responses to the survey questions as well as any other comments would be appreciated. Please return these by email to Penny.Forrest@VDOT.Virginia.gov between now and May 31.

We subsequently plan to review the feedback with a small working group of local government and economic development authorities to determine if legislative changes are needed as well as any programmatic changes. Based on this, we will then prepare recommendations for the next General Assembly session.

Thank you in advance for your assistance. If you need anything further, please feel free to contact me at 804-786-2745.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. A. Estes", written over a horizontal line.

Michael A. Estes

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